

Remarks

Claims 53-61, 71-73, and 75-105 are pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 58-60, 80-82, 89-91, 98-100, 104, and 105. Entry and consideration of the amendments presented herein is respectfully requested. Accordingly, claims 53-57, 61, 71-73, 75-79, 83-88, 92-97, and 101-103 are currently before the Examiner and favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 53-57, 61, 71-73, 75-79, 83-88, 92-97, and 101-103 are allowed and respectfully submit that the amendments presented herein place the subject application in condition for allowance.

Applicants further request the electronic records of the Patent Office be updated to reflect the new title presented in the Amendment dated May 5, 2004, in accordance with the Examiner's request. A review of the Patent Office electronic records indicates the new title is not yet reflected therein.

Claims 58-60, 80-82, 89-91, and 98-100 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully assert that there is adequate written description in the subject specification to convey to the ordinarily skilled artisan that they had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants have canceled claims all the rejected claims, thereby rendering the rejection of those claims moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 104 and 105 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Applicants respectfully assert that the claims as filed are definite. However, by this Amendment, claims 104 and 105 have been canceled, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

It should be understood that the amendments presented herein have been made solely to expedite prosecution of the subject application to completion and should not be construed as an

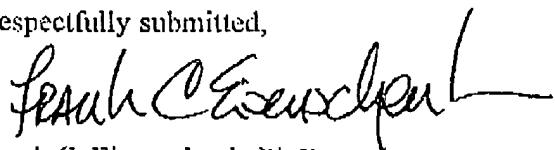
indication of Applicants' agreement with or acquiescence in the Examiner's position. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the invention(s) disclosed in the subject application, including any subject matter canceled or not pursued during prosecution of the subject application, in a related application.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, Applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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